

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of all claims ever presented is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a requesting local knowledge management server for retrieving digital assets in a distributed data processing system wherein the digital assets are stored in a distributed fashion on local storage devices, the method comprising:

querying a central registry of digital assets for a list of storage locations containing the location of a requested digital asset, wherein the central registry stores identity and storage location information for digital assets within the distributed data processing system;

receiving the list of storage locations containing storage location of the requested digital asset;

determining a nearest storage location and associated local knowledge management server for the requested digital asset;

sending a request for the requested digital asset to an identified local knowledge management server having access to the an identified nearest storage location of the requested digital asset; and

receiving the digital asset from the identified local knowledge management server.

2. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein access to the central registry of digital assets is controlled by a central knowledge management server.

3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the central knowledge management server, prior to allowing the requesting local knowledge management server to receive the storage location information, authenticating that the requesting local knowledge management server is authorized to access the central registry of digital assets.

4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the central knowledge management server prohibits access to the central registry of digital assets if the requesting local knowledge management server is not authenticated.
5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving a reply from the identified local knowledge management server requesting that the requesting local knowledge management server provide authenticating information to the identified local knowledge management server indicating that the requesting local knowledge management server is authorized to access the requested digital asset.
6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 5, further comprising:
 - sending authenticating information with the request for the digital asset indicating authority to access the requested digital asset.
7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
 - sending authenticating information with the request for the digital asset indicating authority to access the requested digital asset.
8. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein at least some transmissions between the requesting digital asset management system and the identified digital asset management system are encrypted.
9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the digital asset comprises one of audio clips, phone messages, electronically delivered facsimiles, videos, still photographs, text, and graphics.
10. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable media for use in a requesting local knowledge management data processing system for retrieving digital assets in a distributed data processing system wherein the digital assets

are stored in a distributed fashion on local storage devices, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for querying a central registry of digital assets for a list of storage locations containing the location of a requested digital asset, wherein the central registry stores identity and storage location information for digital assets within the distributed data processing system;

second instructions for receiving the list of storage locations containing storage location of the requested digital asset;

third instructions for determining a nearest storage location and associated local knowledge management server for the requested digital asset;

fourth instructions ~~third instructions~~ for sending a request for the requested digital asset to an identified local knowledge management server having access to the an identified nearest storage location of the requested digital asset; and

fifth instructions ~~fourth instructions~~ for receiving the digital asset from the identified local knowledge management server.

11. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein access to the central registry of digital assets is controlled by a central knowledge management server.

12. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the central knowledge management server, prior to allowing the requesting local knowledge management server to receive the storage location information, authenticating that the requesting local knowledge management server is authorized to access the central registry of digital assets.

13. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the central knowledge management server prohibits access to the central registry of digital assets if the requesting local knowledge management server is not authenticated.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as recited in claim 10, further comprising:

sixth instructions ~~fifth instructions~~ for receiving a reply from the identified local knowledge management server requesting that the requesting local knowledge management server provide authenticating information to the identified local knowledge management server indicating that the requesting local knowledge management server is authorized to access the requested digital asset.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as recited in claim 14, further comprising:

seventh instructions ~~sixth instructions~~ for sending authenticating information with the request for the digital asset indicating authority to access the requested digital asset.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as recited in claim 10, further comprising:

sixth instructions ~~fifth instructions~~ for sending authenticating information with the request for the digital asset indicating authority to access the requested digital asset.

17. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein at least some transmissions between the requesting knowledge management system and the identified knowledge management system are encrypted.

18. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the digital asset comprises one of audio clips, phone messages, electronically delivered facsimiles, videos, still photographs, text, and graphics.

19. (Currently Amended) A system in a requesting local knowledge management data processing system for retrieving digital assets in a distributed data processing system wherein the digital assets are stored in a distributed fashion on local storage devices, the system comprising:

first means for querying a central registry of digital assets for a list of storage locations containing the location of a requested digital asset, wherein the central registry stores identity and storage location information for digital assets within the distributed data processing system;

second means for receiving the list of storage locations containing storage location of the requested digital asset;

third means for determining a nearest storage location and associated local knowledge management server for the requested digital asset;

fourth means ~~third means~~ for sending a request for the requested digital asset to an identified local knowledge management server having access to the an identified nearest storage location of the requested digital asset; and

fifth means ~~fourth means~~ for receiving the digital asset from the identified local knowledge management server.

20. (Original) The system as recited in claim 19, wherein access to the central registry of digital assets is controlled by a central knowledge management server.

21. (Original) The system as recited in claim 20, wherein the central knowledge management server, prior to allowing the requesting local knowledge management server to receive the storage location information, authenticating that the requesting local knowledge management server is authorized to access the central registry of digital assets.

22. (Original) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the central knowledge management server prohibits access to the central registry of digital assets if the requesting local knowledge management server is not authenticated.

23. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 19, further comprising:

sixth means ~~fifth means~~ for receiving a reply from the identified local knowledge management server requesting that the requesting local knowledge management server provide authenticating information to the identified local knowledge management server

indicating that the requesting local knowledge management server is authorized to access the requested digital asset.

24. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 23, further comprising:
~~seventh means~~ ~~sixth means~~ for sending authenticating information with the request for the digital asset indicating authority to access the requested digital asset.
25. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 19, further comprising:
~~sixth means~~ ~~fifth means~~ for sending authenticating information with the request for the digital asset indicating authority to access the requested digital asset.
26. (Original) The system as recited in claim 19, wherein at least some transmissions between the requesting knowledge management system and the identified knowledge management system are encrypted.
27. (Original) The system as recited in claim 19, wherein the digital asset comprises one of audio clips, phone messages, electronically delivered facsimiles, videos, still photographs, text, and graphics.